

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /085 W

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R 291430Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3025

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0808

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, XF, BE

SUBJECT: EC-9 MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS' MEETING; EUR-ARAB
DIALOGUE

REF: DUBLIN 175

1. WE DISCUSSED EC-9 MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS MEETING HELD DURING
DUBLIN POLITICAL DIRECTORS' CONSULTATIONS JANUARY 23-24 WITH
FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE JANUARY 28. SOURCE SAID EXPERTS
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AGREED THAT MOST PROMISING APPROACH TO PEACE SETTLEMENT MIDDLE EAST AT

PRESENT WAS FURTHER WITHDRAWALS IN CONFRONTATION AREAS. EXPOERTS DID NOT SEESUCH HOPE FOR "STEP BY STEP" APPROACH BEYOND WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI, HOWEVER. THEY HELD VIEW THAT SECOND "STEP" COULD NOT BE PARTIAL BUT MUST TAKE FORM OF GENERAL PACKAGE SETTLEMENT. SOURCE SAID THAT EC-9 STILL PLAN NO POLITICAL ACTION IN MIDDLE EAST, AND WISH TO AVOID INTERFERING IN US EFFORTS TO REACH SETTLEMNT. HE EXPRESSED RESERVATION IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR "WHAT THE FRENCH MAY BE UP TO."

2. REFERRING TO CONSULTATIONS IN DUBLIN ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, SOURCE NOTED THAT DIALOGUE STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. HE SAID FORMULA WHEREBY TALKS WOULD BEGIN THROUGH WORKING GROUPS OF EXPERTS NOT DESIGNATED BY NATIONALITY (ROME 182 AND 891) WAS STILL A POSSIBILITY. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THT DELAY IN SOLVING PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION MAY NOW BE MORE STRUCTURAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE,SINCE ARAB LEAGUE IS BADLY ORGANIZED AND SECGEN RIAD HAS DIFFICULTY IN CONSULTING MEMBERS. THUS DEFINITIVE ARAB VIEW ON "NON-NATIONAL EXPERT" APPROACH NOT YET KNOWN.

3. SOURCE NOTED THAT EC-9 ARE IN A HURRY TO GET DIALOGUE STARTED SINCE EVEN MORE DELAYS AND PROBLEMS MIGHT THEN BE EXPECTED AFTER LIBYA ACCEDES TO ARAB LEAGUE PRESIDENCY IN MARCH (TO BE FOLLOWED BY MAURETANIA). HE ALSO SAID THAT EC-9 HAVE FINALLY RECOGNIZED THAT ARABS ARE "NOT DOING THEIR HOMEWORK" ON DIALOGUE AND THAT IT WILL BE UP TO EUROPEANS TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS FOR EVENTUAL COOPERATION (REFTEL).RENNER

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